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# Up Your Tired and Run-Down PASTURES

Ag 4 Pro  
10/9

A good pasture  
gives you a  
forage crop  
harvested by  
grazing . . .



. . . but



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. . . a run-down  
pasture gives you  
little more than  
an inclosure  
for livestock

(Steps in Pasture Renovation Described on Back)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
UPPER MISSISSIPPI REGION, MILWAUKEE, WIS.



## TEAR UP OLD SOD, PUT SOIL IN SHAPE FOR SEEDING

The first step in pasture renovation is to kill or suppress the present growth. This can be done with a field cultivator, disk, or plow. Suppress the stand if you want the present grass to return. Kill it if you want to change. When and how much you cultivate will depend on weather and soil conditions. It's a good idea to start in the summer after the old pasture has been heavily grazed.

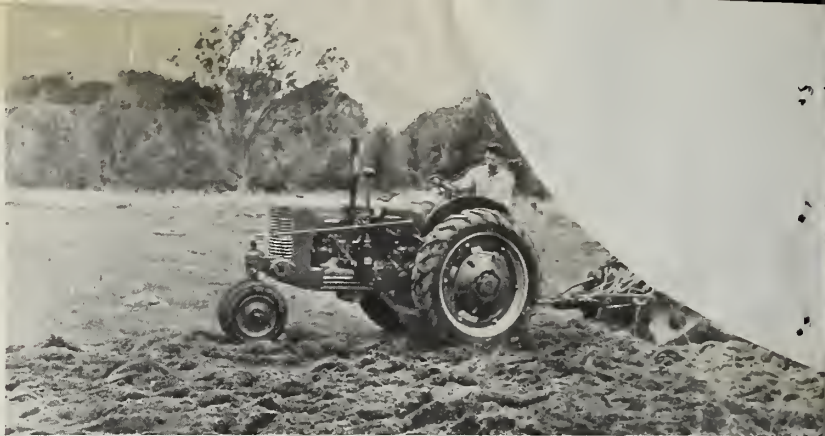
Make the first cultivation shallow and each succeeding one a little deeper than the one before. You may want to use both a field cultivator and disk. Work just deep enough to kill the sod. Work on the contour if the land slopes. Don't work the soil any more than is needed to control the vegetation. Leave the surface rough and well covered with roots. If you use lime, work it thoroughly into the soil well ahead of seeding time. Put fertilizer on at seeding time with an attachment to the drill or broadcast it just before seeding.



## MANAGE YOUR PASTURE CAREFULLY

After you get the pasture stand, care is very important. Grazing must be regulated. Weeds must be clipped. It is a good idea to pasture heavily. Clip weeds with a mower so that animals will graze it evenly. A mature cow will eat (or waste) about 40 pounds of forage every day. But forage must be thick, palatable, and 4 to 5 inches high for a cow to graze that much.

More than one pasture is needed in order to manage pastures most effectively and to insure good pasture the whole season.



## SEED AND FERTILIZE

Seed at the right time. Don't gamble by seeding too late. Use a complete fertilizer. The nitrogen will help the seedlings get started. Plenty of phosphate and potash will make the roots grow faster and make better forage. Seed either broadcast, or with a drill or a combination cultipacker and drill. A firm seedbed is best for germination but more erosion occurs on smooth soil.

Seed legumes (alfalfa, red clover, sweetclover, alsike, Ladino) and a grass if the old grass stand will not come back.

